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DR. BETHUNE ON THE DISEASE KNOWN AS MORBID SENSIBILITY  
OF THE RETINA, ILLUSTRATED BY CASES.

[Communicated for the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.—Continued from page 343.]

I HAVE spoken of *over use of the eyes* in reading as a predisposing cause; it is also frequently an exciting one.

CASE III.—*Morbid Sensibility of Retina*.—Nathaniel G., 32. 1837. He thinks he injured his eyes by study in college eight years ago. Three years after this, he had the measles. This was followed by weakness of the eyes, which obliged him to have the room darkened, the eyes bandaged, &c. He says that before the measles, he had scarlet fever, from which he had not recovered when the measles attacked him. During the scarlet fever he was bled several times for pain in the head. He was relieved as long as the faintness lasted, but the pain returned. Since the inflammation after the measles, the eyes have remained weak, but he has had no pain in them except when exposed to the wind, dust, &c. His general health is good. He cannot read for any length of time without pain in the eyes, and this has prevented him from following any occupation. Recommended to apply a blister to the back of the neck, and to keep it open with savine cerate. Also to go on a farm and to give his eyes entire rest.

CASE IV.—*Morbid Sensibility of the Retina*.—Mary H., 24. April 15, 1845. Widow. Health tolerably good. Never had trouble in eyes till two years ago, when, *after reading by moonlight*, was attacked with pain through eye-balls and indistinctness of vision on fixing eyes. Ordered to rest the eyes and use cold applications.

16th.—Much pain since visit. Apply behind ears sol. ant. tart.

19th.—Pain as before. Continue application behind ears.

24th.—Much the same. Continue application, and for cold water substitute brandy and water to bathe eyes. On the 29th was directed, instead of the antimonial solution, to use liniment. ammoniæ with ol. crotonis, and to resume simple cold applications.

May 6th.—Less pain, but complains of "blur" occasionally on looking at objects, with slight heaviness of lids. Apply to lids ol. rosmarini with alcohol. Continue cold applications.

*The irritation of foreign substances, as dust, &c., may produce it.*

**CASE V.—*Morbid Sensibility of Retina.***—John E. Thomas, 23. Nov. 21, 1843. Eyes always somewhat weak. Six or seven years ago had a tumor taken from right upper lid. Right eye near-sighted. Six weeks ago, after moving some goods, was attacked with inflammation (from dust) in eyes. Since then they have been quite troublesome on use, though the inflammation subsided in a few days. Pain through balls and over orbits, confusion of the letters in reading, &c. On examination, globes appear somewhat vascular; conjunctivæ somewhat thickened and tumid at inner side of right and outer of left cornea. Three applications of two leeches to each temple. Cath. m. s. al. die, v. d. Cold applications. Rest to eyes.

**CASE VI.—*Morbid Sensibility of Retina, with Lippitudo.***—Matilda B., 29. Dec. 19, 1844. Operative in factory. Scrofulous constitution. Eyes weak from infancy. Has never menstruated. For three or four years past has had redness and aching of eye balls. Thinks occupation injured her eyes by cotton dust. For nine years (soon after entering the mill) has been troubled with loss of vision, and aching in eyes on looking at small objects. Has used ointments, washes, &c., with benefit, and eyes are better than they were a year ago.

On examination, the conjunctiva of both eyes somewhat injected, the lashes partly destroyed. Directed to steam eyes with tr. sap. and opii, to apply to edges of lids at night a weak ointment of nitrate of mercury, and to omit her shade.

22d.—Eyes look better. Much smarting from ointment. Omit it and substitute cold cream. Complains of "faintness" at stomach and costiveness. R. Tr. al. et myrrh., tr. lav. c. et tr. gent. c., aa gt. x., 3 in die.

26th.—Discharged somewhat improved.

*Bodily fatigue*, even where no especial use of the eyes has been called for, I have also known produce it.

**CASE VII.—**Julia Ann W., 16. April 4, 1843. Health generally good, except that she is subject to costiveness. Never troubled in eyes till last October, when *after riding all night for two or three nights in succession*, was attacked with symptoms of morbid sensibility of retina. Directed a Rochelle powder every other day. Cold water to eyes, and rest, with vegetable diet.

It is often, probably much more often than we suspect, brought about by *moral emotion*. I have seen it, I think more than once, combined with *insanity*, and with other cerebral affections.

**CASE VIII.—*Morbid Sensibility of the Retina, with Congenital Tumor of the Conjunctiva.***—Albert E. M., 11. April 30, 1846. Health not good. Appetite poor, bowels irregular, and sleep sometimes disturbed. He wakes up occasionally with "crazy turns," and this is followed by "stupidity," lasting sometimes a week. Is subject to headache. Never complained of his eyes till six months ago, when after much study at night began to have pain and aching in the eyes, with a "veil" and floating spots before them, which symptoms have since increased.

On examination, the child is pale and delicate in appearance. On

the right eye is seen a tumor at outer angle, apparently from thickening of the conjunctiva at its reflection, which he is reported to have had from birth. Nothing else abnormal. Directed one half teaspoonful of powdered rhubarb every other morning, three times, to blister behind each ear, to exercise freely, and to give up all active use of the eyes. Meat once a-day.

March 5th.—No headache. Eyes much as before. Continue same.

12th.—General health much improved. No change in eyes. To bathe them in brandy and water.

21st.—Eyes somewhat stronger. Continue same.

June 4.—Still improved. Continue same.

18th.—Doing well. Cold bath. Continue application.

A very frequent predisposing cause is *dyspepsia*, as in the two following instances, in these cases complicated with pure amaurosis.

CASE IX.—*Amaurosis, with Morbid Sensibility of the Retina, and slight Conjunctivitis of the Right Eye.*—Phoebe Ann S., 31. Dec. 5. 1844. Is subject to dyspepsia. Disease of the eyes is of three years' standing. Troubled by aching of eyes on looking steadily at objects. Has a constant affection of sight, described by her as a "thick fog" before the eye.

On examination, both eyes somewhat injected. Right eye—Pupil rather large and sluggish. Was directed two leeches to right temple every other day. Cold lotion. Five grains of blue pill every other night. Vegetable diet, and rest to the eyes.

16th.—Eyes improved in appearance. Better feeling at stomach. Still a trembling at epigastrium, with poor appetite and costiveness. Less aching in right eye. R. Tr. lav. c., tr. gent. c. et tr. al. et myrrhæ, aa gtt. xx. 3 in die, before eating. (Says the "fog" is less thick, and that the eye was much relieved by the leeches, which she applied twice.) Repeat two leeches to right temple.

19th.—Eye improved. Better appetite, and bowels regular. Feels generally better, and "trembling" gone. Applied leeches as directed. Continue tincture.

21st.—Sight much improved. Dyspeptic symptoms diminished. Still suffers from weakness in right eye on going out in the wind. Complains of pain in the eyes on stooping. Apply a solution of antimony behind ears. Continue drops.

CASE X.—*Morbid Sensibility of the Retina, with Amaurosis.*—Louisa B., woolen weaver. Jan. 20, 1845. Health good till within the last five years. Since then, subject to pain in head, epigastrium and left hypochondrium. Is occasionally oppressed by food. Subject to costiveness, and is troubled by coldness of hands and feet. The eyes were first attacked two years ago. At that time had some soreness of lids, with pain and redness of left eye. The inflammation, after it abated, left the eyes weak and painful. They have since then got worse, and now the sight is good for a moment, but objects soon fade. The pain is more severe in right eye.

On examination, right eye—pupil dilated, fixed, or nearly so. Left

eye—normal, with the exception of some vascularity of conjunctiva and sclerotic. Apply sol. ant. tart. behind ears, and lin. ammoniæ c. ol. terebinth. to spine night and morning. She says that tepid applications are more agreeable to the eyes, and is therefore directed to bathe them frequently in warm milk and water.

27th.—Same. Complains of costiveness. To take a dose of infus. sennæ c., C. tr. rhei, and to apply to forehead sol. veratriæ sat. in alcohol. This patient was at first relieved by application to forehead, but the pain returned soon after. As she wished to go home, she was discharged within a few days after the last report.

*The use of eyes weakened by any previous disease may prodece it.*

CASE XI.—*Morbid Sensibility of the Retina.*—Maria A. B., 21. Dec. 19, 1844. Says her eyes were always good till about a year ago, while recovering from "typhus." On attempting to read, found that the "letters ran together." She has from that time been affected with this weakness of vision, with occasional pain through the eyeballs. Apply sol. veratriæ sat. above brows. Lotis frigida.

24th.—No improvement. Applied sol. three times. Omit it and use sol. ant. tart. behind the ears.

Jan. 9.—No improvement. Use brandy and water to bathe eyes. The menstruation being now found to be irregular, she was directed to take a pill of aloes c. ferr. sulph. 3 in die. Omit antimonial solution from behind ears.

CASE XII.—*Chronic Ophthalmia, with Morbid Sensibility of the Retina.*—Elizabeth B., 19. June 26, 1845. Health generally good, except *irregular menstruation for one year past*. Her eyes were first attacked six months ago, without obvious cause, with pain, not severe, smarting, adhesion of lids on waking, and *occasional dimness of vision on use*.

On examination, the lids appear somewhat injected and the eyes watery. Directed two leeches to each temple, tepid applications, with the addition of cream to the edges of the lids on going to bed. Vegetable diet.

28th.—No pain since visit. For cream, substitute weak ointment of nitrate of silver.

30th.—Much improved. Continue same.

July 17th.—Eyes nearly well. Has used a collyrium. To continue it.

24th.—Much the same. Still complains of "blur" before eyes. Is using collyrium and cold applications. Omit them and use brandy and water as an application.

26th.—"Blur" less. Continue same.

August 14th. Improved. No pain in eyes, no blur for a week past. (Menstruated this week.) Continue same.

September 19th.—Sight improved. No pain. Has continued brandy and water. Had menses naturally last week. Directed to continue application.

**CASE XIII.—*Morbid Sensibility of Retina. Pain and Weakness of Sight.***—Catharine D., 42, cook. Feb. 1, 1845. Sanguine temperament. Disease came on gradually three years ago. Had at first pain in eyes, and headache, none lately. Ordered vegetable diet. Two teaspoonsful of salts every morning, and the application of a solution of ant. tart. behind the ears till considerable soreness be produced. Cold water to eyes.

14th.—Eyes somewhat stronger. Sight not improved. Omit antimony, and apply to brows a saturated solution of veratria in alcohol. Continue one teaspoonful of salts altero die.

18th.—Much the same. Applied veratrine once. Continue same quoque die.

22d.—Much improved. Eyes stronger and objects appear more clear. Continue applications. Take meat once a-day.

25th.—Doing well. Omit salts. Continue veratrine alt. die.

March 6th.—Not so well for two nights past. To apply to lids ungt. argent. nit. mit., and to use veratrine occasionally, if eyes feel unusually weak.

April 1st.—Applied veratria as directed. Eyes stronger, but sight not improved. Continue veratrine, and use cold affusion to head and upper part of body every morning.

5th.—Headache for two days past from menstruation. Eyes (as usual) more weak at that time. Continue veratrine to forehead.

15th.—Much improved. To continue same applications.

**CASE XIV.—*Amaurosis, with Morbid Sensibility of Retina.***—Robert J., 30. Dec. 14, 1844. For twelve or fifteen years health has been feeble. "Weakness of spine," with outward curvature. Walks with some difficulty. Three years ago, while recovering from sickness, undertook to sharpen razors as an occupation. This, which required a great effort of vision, he continued some time, when he began to have a sensation as if of dirt in the eyes, with a "cloud" before them. This increased, and pain set in, which obliged him to give up work. In this state he has continued ever since, with an aggravation of the disease, and now he cannot raise his eyes without pain. He has used "all sorts of things without relief." He has generally worn a shade or green glasses. Apply to brows a saturated solution of veratrine in alcohol once a-day.

14th.—Much the same—has used veratrine imperfectly. Admitted to House. Veratrine applied thoroughly. To leave off glasses, shade, &c.

15th.—Felt veratrine all day, and thinks he can use his eyes better. Continue same.

18th.—Head feels better. Eyes stronger. Continue veratrine. To walk out.

Jan. 11, 1845.—Had very much improved in power of using eyes till day before yesterday, when disease returned much as ever. Omit veratrine for the present.

15th.—Much the same till a few days ago, when resumed veratrine with some benefit. Wishes to go home. Discharged.

It is occasionally complicated with ophthalmia, as we have seen in one or two of the previous cases, and of which the following is an example.

**CASE XV.—*Morbid Sensibility of Retina, with Chronic Ophthalmia.***—Nehemiah D., 24. May 18, 1844. Was formerly a seaman, but for three years past has been a student and teacher. Eyes were first attacked about three years ago with weakness, redness, pain in the temples and through the eyes. On reading, the letters seemed to run together. These symptoms have continued from time to time ever since. This affection came on after unusual exertion of the eyes at night.

On examination, lids not diseased. Conjunctivæ somewhat injected and thickened, especially towards inner angles. His health, with the exception of costiveness, he says is generally good. He was directed counter-irritation behind the ears, cold applications to the eyes, which he was strictly cautioned against using, to take a gentle saline laxative on alternate days, and to omit the use of meat.

31st.—Eyes much improved. Can bear more light. To continue the same treatment.

I have seen several cases in which near-sightedness came on with the other symptoms, and abated with their removal, a fact which proves pretty conclusively that this affection is not *necessarily* dependent on any change of form in the cornea, &c., to which it has usually been attributed, as in the following cases.

**CASE XVI.—*Morbid Sensibility of the Retina, with Myopia.***—John McK., 36. July 30, 1838. About fifteen years since, eyes began to fail him—was attacked with short-sightedness. This was followed by pain on using the eyes, &c. He, however, continued his occupation, his eyes constantly growing worse, for eight years, at which time he applied to the Infirmary for relief. He was cupped with some relief to his head, which was at that time confused and dizzy. He was unable to stay long enough in the city to follow up any treatment. On his return home he again went to work, though his eyes were very feeble. He continued to work a little till a year and a half since, when he was obliged to give up entirely. He thinks that after this the eyes grew worse till the last winter, when he shut himself up for the most part in a dark room, since which he says his eyes have been less painful. *Now*, eyes almost constantly painful. Pain aggravated at intervals. Dizziness and confusion in head. Bowels costive. Appetite pretty good. Does not sleep well. Recommended to return home, to remain in a dark room, to have venesection followed by free leeching. Pill of s. m. et opii every night for a week. Cold affusion to head. Milk diet.

**CASE XVII.—*Morbid Sensibility of the Retina, with Myopia.***—Caroline B., 16. Jan. 9, 1846. Says her health is tolerably good. Menstruated once in August last, never since. Her appetite is poor. Is subject to dyspepsia and costiveness. Never troubled in eyes till two years ago last March, when after much use of them at night was attacked with a feeling as if of a foreign substance lodged under the lids, followed by pain through the balls, burning, weight in the lids, &c., with *near-sightedness*.

On examination, the sclerotic around the cornea is seen slightly injected. The corneæ are rather *flat*. She was ordered a pill of aloes

and sulphate of iron three times a day, the daily application of Fleming's tincture of aconite above the brows, active exercise in the open air, and to give the eyes rest as far as possible.

13th.—Says that the aconite produces a feeling of alternate cold and heat in the part, with numbness. The eyes are stronger. Continue aconite occasionally.

Sept. 9th.—Had measles three or four weeks ago. Eyes not so strong since. No pain in them except on use. Resume pill of June 9th, which she has omitted for some time past. To have a mustard foot-bath every night, and to bathe the eyes with brandy and water. Admitted to House.

Oct. 4th.—For ten days past has used an injection per vaginam of aq. ammoniæ fort. and milk, 3 in die. To continue it and resume application of aconite behind ears once a day.

7th.—Same. Omit pil. R. Tr. guaici c. 3 3 in die. Continue pediluvium and tincture.

17th.—Eyes have felt stronger and less painful for two weeks past. Some days ago had a feeling as if menstruation were about to take place. Omit injection. Continue bath and tincture of aconite.

This patient was discharged a few days after, and though menstruation had not recurred, her general health and eyes had much improved. She was recommended to omit all medication except the application of the aconite, which she was to use at such times as the pain and weakness of the eye should be unusually troublesome. I regret that I omitted to record the state of her vision as regarded the near-sightedness, though I think this diminished with the general improvement in her health and the other troublesome symptoms connected with her eyes. In a similar case, that of a gentleman whom I attended some years ago, I remember distinctly that this was the result, and am certain that the same thing has occurred in one or two other instances.

[To be continued.]

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## INHALATION OF ETHEREAL VAPOR FOR THE PREVENTION OF PAIN IN SURGICAL OPERATIONS.

By John C. Warren, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

APPLICATION has been made to me by R. H. Eddy, Esq., in a letter dated Nov. 30th, in behalf Dr. W. T. G. Morton, to furnish an account of the operations witnessed and performed by me, wherein his new discovery for preventing pain was employed. Dr. M. has also proposed to me to give him the names of such hospitals as I know of in this country, in order that he may present them with the use of his discovery. These applications, and the hope of being useful to my professional brethren, especially those concerned in the hospitals which may have the benefit of Dr. M.'s proposal, have induced me to draw up the following statement, and to request that it may be made public through your Journal.

The discovery of a mode of preventing pain in surgical operations has been an object of strong desire among surgeons from an early period. In my surgical lectures I have almost annually alluded to it, and stated the means which I have usually adopted for the attainment of this object. I have also freely declared, that notwithstanding the use of very large doses of narcotic substances, this desideratum had never been satisfactorily obtained. The successful use of any article of the *materia medica* for this purpose, would therefore be hailed by me as an important alleviation to human suffering. I have in consequence readily admitted the trial of plans calculated to accomplish this object, whenever they were free from danger.

About five weeks since, Dr. Morton, dentist of this city, informed me that he had invented an apparatus for the inhalation of a vapor, the effect of which was to produce a state of total insensibility to pain, and that he had employed it successfully in a sufficient number of cases in his practice to justify him in a belief of its efficacy. He wished for an opportunity to test its power in surgical operations, and I agreed to give him such an opportunity as soon as practicable.

Being at that time in attendance as Surgeon of the Massachusetts General Hospital, a patient presented himself in that valuable institution a few days after my conversation with Dr. Morton, who required an operation for a tumor of the neck, and agreeably to my promise I requested the attendance of Dr. M.

On October 17th, the patient being prepared for the operation, the apparatus was applied to his mouth by Dr. Morton for about three minutes, at the end of which time he sank into a state of insensibility. I immediately made an incision about three inches long through the skin of the neck, and began a dissection among important nerves and blood-vessels without any expression of pain on the part of the patient. Soon after he began to speak incoherently, and appeared to be in an agitated state during the remainder of the operation. Being asked immediately afterwards whether he had suffered much, he said that he had felt as if his neck had been scratched; but subsequently, when inquired of by me, his statement was, that he did not experience pain at the time, although aware that the operation was proceeding.

The effect of the gaseous inhalation in neutralizing the sentient faculty was made perfectly distinct to my mind by this experiment, although the patient during a part of its prosecution exhibited appearances indicative of suffering. Dr. Morton had apprised me, that the influence of his application would last but a few minutes after its intermission; and as the operation was necessarily protracted, I was not disappointed that its success was only partial.

On the following day, October 18th, an operation was done by Dr. Hayward, on a tumor of the arm, in a female patient at the Hospital. The respiration of the gas was in this case continued during the whole of the operation. There was no exhibition of pain, excepting some occasional groans during its last stage, which she subsequently stated to have

arisen from a disagreeable dream. Noticing the pulse in this patient before and after the operation, I found it to have risen from 80 to 120.

Two or three days after these occurrences, on meeting with Dr. Charles T. Jackson, distinguished for his philosophical spirit of inquiry, as well as for his geological and chemical science, this gentleman informed me that he first suggested to Dr. Morton the inspiration of ether, as a means of preventing the pain of operations on the teeth. He did not claim the invention of the apparatus, nor its practical application; for these we are indebted to Dr. Morton.

The success of this process in the prevention of pain for a certain period being quite established, I at once conceived it to be my duty to introduce the apparatus into the practice of the Hospital, but was immediately arrested by learning that the proprietor intended to obtain an exclusive patent for its use. It now became a question, whether, in accordance with that elevated principle long since introduced into the medical profession, which forbids its members to conceal any useful discovery, we could continue to encourage an application we were not allowed to use ourselves, and of the components of which we were ignorant. On discussing this matter with Dr. Hayward, my colleague in the Hospital, we came to the conclusion, that we were not justified in encouraging the further use of this new invention, until we were better satisfied on these points. Dr. Hayward thereupon had a conversation with Dr. Morton, in consequence of which Dr. M. addressed to me a letter. In this he declared his willingness to make known to us the article employed, and to supply assistance to administer the inhalation whenever called upon. These stipulations he has complied with.

This being done, we thought ourselves justified in inviting Dr. Morton to continue his experiments at the Hospital, and elsewhere; and he directly after, Nov. 7th, attended at a painful and protracted operation performed by me, of the excision of a portion of the lower jaw, in which the patient's sufferings were greatly mitigated. On the same day an amputation of the thigh of a young woman was performed at the Hospital by Dr. Hayward. In this case the respiration of the ethereal vapor appeared to be entirely successful in preventing the pain of the operation; the patient stating, afterwards, that she did not know that anything had been done to her.

On Nov. 12th, an operation for the removal of a tumor from the arm of a young woman was performed by Dr. J. Mason Warren. The vapor was administered for three minutes, when the patient became unconscious; the operator then proceeded, the inspiration being continued. Standing myself on one side of the patient, while the operator was on the other, so entirely tranquil was she, that I was not aware the operation had begun, until it was nearly completed.

On Nov. 21st an operation was performed by Dr. J. Mason Warren on a gentleman for the removal of a tumor, which covered nearly the half of the front of the right thigh. The patient lying upon a bed, the vapor was administered by Dr. Morton in the presence of Drs. Charles T. Jackson, Reynolds, J. V. C. Smith, Flagg, Gould, Shurtleff, Law-

rence, Parsons, Briggs, and others. After he had breathed the vapor for three minutes his head fell, and he ceased to respire it, but presently awaking, the inhalation was renewed till he again appeared insensible. The operation was then commenced. At the first stroke of the knife he clapped his hand on the wound, but I immediately seized and held it during the remainder of the operation, though not without some difficulty in consequence of his struggles. The operation was completed in two or three minutes, and the patient remained quietly on his back with his eyes closed. On examination the pupils were found to be dilated; the pulse was not materially affected. After he had lain about two minutes I roused him by the inquiry, "how do you do to-day?" to which he replied, "very well, I thank you." I then asked what he had been doing? He said he believed he had been dreaming; he dreamed that he was at home, and making some examination into his business. "Do you feel any pain?" "No." "How is that tumor of yours?" The patient raised himself in bed, looked at his thigh for a moment, and said, "it is gone, and I'm glad of it." I then inquired if he had felt any pain during the operation, to which he replied in the negative. He soon recovered his natural state, experienced no inconvenience from the inhalation, was remarkably free from pain, and in three days went home into the country.

In all these cases there was a decided mitigation of pain; in most of them the patients on the day after the operation, and at other times, stated, that they had not been conscious of pain. All those who attended were, I think, satisfied of the efficacy of the application in preventing, or, at least, greatly diminishing the suffering usual in such cases. The phenomena presented in these operations afford grounds for many interesting reflections, but it being my principal intention at this time to give a simple statement of facts, I shall not pursue the subject further, but close with two or three remarks.

1st. The breathing of the ethereal vapor appears to operate directly on the cerebral system, and the consequent insensibility is proportionate to the degree of cerebral affection.

2d. Muscular power was for the time suspended in some cases, in others its loss was partial, and in one instance was scarcely sensible. The great relaxation of muscular action produced by a full dose of the application, leads to the hope that it may be employed with advantage in cases of spasmodic affection, both by the surgeon and by the physician.

3d. The action of the heart is remarkably accelerated in some cases, but not in all.

4th. The respiration is sometimes stertorous, like that of apoplexy.

All these changes soon pass off without leaving any distinct traces behind them, and the ordinary state of the functions returns. This has been the course of things in the cases I have witnessed, but I think it quite probable, that so powerful an agent may sometimes produce other and even alarming effects. I therefore would recommend, that it should never be employed except under the inspection of a judicious and competent person.

Let me conclude by congratulating my professional brethren on the acquisition of a mode of mitigating human suffering, which may become a valuable agent in the hands of careful and well-instructed practitioners, even if it should not prove of such general application as the imagination of sanguine persons would lead them to anticipate.

*Boston, Dec. 3, 1846.*

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INSENSIBILITY DURING SURGICAL OPERATIONS PRODUCED BY  
INHALATION.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I observe in the last No. of your Journal an article entitled "The Inhalation of an Ethereal Vapor to prevent Sensibility to Pain," &c., signed by J. F. Flagg, M.D., a considerable part of which is devoted to comments upon a paper of mine in the same Journal of the date of Nov. 19th, 1846.

Any one who will trouble himself to examine that paper, will find there a narrative of physiological facts observed by myself, with a few concluding remarks connected with the patent right; intended chiefly to inform the medical profession, at the request of the inventors, that every practicable facility would be afforded to them in their use of the new process. It was far from my intention to take any part in any differences likely to arise from the invasion of the patent, and I indulged the belief that I had avoided any points of a controversial character.

It may be necessary, however, to notice one or two points in the communication of Dr. Flagg, but I do so with regret that they should have emanated from so respectable a quarter. I disclaim any interest of any kind whatever in the matter under discussion, except the heartfelt desire I have, in common, I believe, with almost every man in the community, that full justice should be done to the inventors of a method by which the whole human race is benefited; and I regret that an article embodying, as I believe this does, the views of those who would appropriate to their own advantage the discovery of others, should have first emanated from a gentleman for whose position I entertain, in common with others, much respect.

I am free to say that I believe many persons besides myself would have been gratified if this invention could have been issued to the world unfettered by any restrictions of law or private right. But when your correspondent, in his anxiety to take possession of the invention, refuses to allow to Drs. Jackson and Morton any right to their discovery, or to admit any "apology" for the patent, I am ready to show what I consider their right to be; and shall also take the liberty to examine how far Dr. Flagg has sustained his position.

The history of inventions is well known. Some fortunate individual makes a discovery. This individual is frequently not he who has investigated the most deeply or theorized the longest upon the subject; though the discovery itself is all the evidence the public can require, of his right to receive for it an equivalent. But no sooner is the discovery announced, than a multitude of individuals begin to recognize their own claims to a reward; and we hear that "there was nothing new in the discovery," "they were quite near it," "they had produced the same effect." It is rare,

however, that a man who offers no evidence of any participation in a discovery, as in the present instance, openly avows his intention to share in the profits. This point deserves further consideration.

The inventors of a method of producing insensibility by inhalation, have shown an almost infallible way of annihilating the pain of some of the most formidable surgical operations. If any plan were to have been devised for promoting the comfort of the race, it would have been difficult to suggest one so wide in its application, as that which should obliterate sensibility at will; which should mitigate the sufferings of those who are called upon to endure pain in its most atrocious forms. If any individuals have bestowed this inestimable boon upon the race, they have a right to look to the race for a substantial return in some shape or other. Who, then, are these individuals? I can find no evidence that the invention would not have slept for twenty years longer, had not Drs. Morton and Jackson demonstrated it to the public.

I have no prepossession in favor of the tribe of *ex post facto* inventors, who always settle like parasites upon every recent invention of any pecuniary value. Either the discovery was previously made, or it was not. If it was, we have only the alternative of supposing, that the fortunate individual saw fit, for some inexplicable reason, to keep in his own bosom a secret, which he knew to be of inestimable value to the whole human family. I prefer to believe that it was not.

But what sort of claim is now made to previous knowledge upon the subject? Is the maid servant mentioned by Dr. Christison, who died in the cause, to be held as the discoverer? Or the gentleman who recovered from his lethargy? Or yet your correspondent who "almost fell asleep"? Obviously not. These facts were mere suggestions, pointing to a hypothetical principle; and it was the business of those who received such hints to have pursued them till the single fact was generalized and the principle established. Drs. Morton and Jackson have done all this. They have struck out a new path; and even when future science shall have abridged and improved the present method, or substituted another for it, it will not detract in the slightest degree from the merit of the original discoverers of a great and novel principle.

It is fair to pre-suppose that your correspondent has ample grounds for availing himself of this discovery, without offering to the inventors a recompense. I shall examine these, as far as I am able to understand them. And, first, let me separate the question of legal right from that of common right and justice. With the former I have nothing to do. It can only be decided by those who possess competent legal knowledge. Your correspondent exclaims, "What is patented? A power? A principle? A natural effect? The operation of a well-known medicinal agent? I doubt the validity of such letters patent. It would seem to me like *patent sunlight* or *patent moon-shine*." This figurative expression of Dr. Flagg's legal opinion may be of great value, but it may be mentioned that the inventors have on the other hand the opinions of several eminent authorities and also that of the commissioners at Washington, that the patent is perfectly valid and tenable. Leaving, then, for those who are competent to it, the discussion of the law of the question, I shall inquire on what grounds of professional right or of common justice your correspondent proposes to appropriate this discovery.

In the first place he objects to the use of patent or secret medicines. "I shall not," says he, "obtain and use it as a secret medicine; I shall

not purchase and use it as a patent medicine," apparently on the ground that "the enlightened and regular medical faculty of Massachusetts \* \* \* \* are associated and have arrayed themselves against all secret remedies or patent medicines, and therefore cannot feel themselves at liberty," &c. &c. "But," says he in another place, "I shall use it." The scruples of your correspondent lie, then, not against the use of the discovery, but against the purchase of it. I shall attempt to remove all hesitation he may have upon this point.

In so doing I may state that as far as my humble influence was concerned, I urged the adoption of the new method in one at least of the early cases which occurred at the Hospital, without consulting the by-laws of the Massachusetts Medical Society, in full reliance upon the wisdom and liberality of the framers of that code. A subsequent examination of it has confirmed my position. I am unable to find any law bearing directly or indirectly upon the present case. The tenth by-law of the Massachusetts Medical Society is directed, as I understand it, against any one who shall publicly advertise or publicly offer to cure disease by medicine, the composition of which he the advertiser makes a secret. It deals with the question of proclaimed secrecy; and in my view is directed against that prudish class of practitioners whose ostentatious solicitude to conceal their wares, is their only chance of persuading people of their value. The same remarks apply to the fifty-eighth by-law. I leave others to judge of the propriety of applying such restrictions to a method which has been publicly registered, which has been voluntarily announced to every surgeon who has used it, and of which the immense utility is universally conceded. I am unable to discover that your correspondent has here any ground for his scruples about purchasing a right.

But, says he, "no one can restrict them from using what is used for the relief of suffering humanity." It is, then, "suffering humanity" which compels them to share in the equivalent which the public is returning to the inventors. But why not send "suffering humanity" to Dr. Morton, or call him to its aid? Dr. Morton has made ample arrangements for its reception at No. 19 Tremont row, or for its relief at the houses of other dentists. When the papers coolly announce "the best method in use for narcotizing patients," or "the improved method," I for one enjoy the audacity of those who assert their intention to have a share in any profits to be made. But it is painful that any man should be compelled by his conscience to receive a part of the substantial gratitude of suffering humanity, when they to whom alone its gratitude is due have made ample arrangements for its relief.

I confess my inability to follow your correspondent in a large part of his argument, and shall therefore only allude to it. He says, "the free use of the article has been ceded to the surgeons of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and these gentlemen would receive it or adopt its use on no other condition, of course, than that of knowing what it was, and having full and free control of it for that institution. Hence, I ask, why \* \* \* \* why I must now purchase the right to use it."

Again, "If it is simple sulphuric ether, I shall use it; \* \* \* \* if it is a compound" ("it is said to be ceded to the surgeons of the Hospital \* \* \* \* and if known to medical students who attend that institution \* \* \* \* no one can rightly restrict them, and") "it will become free."

I can only interpret these logical sequences upon the ground that your

correspondent confounds the question of secret and that of patent, and infers that what is no longer secret is no longer patent. It is understood that the matter was secret just so long as was necessary to secure patents here and elsewhere, and no longer. But the fact of its subsequent publicity does not change the question of property. The discovery and the patent right still belong to the inventors, and your correspondent and whoever else of us wishes to avail himself of it, must accede to their very reasonable terms.

It remains to say a word with regard to three very inoffensive "apologies;" "two of which" your correspondent considers to be "without force," while "the total incorrectness of the main part of the third must be apparent to all." I am unable to see that your correspondent has invalidated the force of the two first. With the intention of testing the correctness of my statement that certain secrets are conventional among dentists, I have applied to three of the most eminent dentists of this city, and to whom I can refer your correspondent, who do not hesitate to state that they are so. But if Dr. Flagg still holds that he "does not know of anything which is practised in dentistry, even relating to the mechanical department, which is kept secret by duly educated dentists," I know no way in which, according to his own views, he could contribute more directly to the cause of "suffering humanity," than by volunteering to communicate to "duly educated dentists," for the mere equivalent of the time occupied in so doing, a concise account of his methods in some of the more recondite departments of his art; for example, in the composition and manufacture of mineral teeth. I am confident that the number of applicants who would amply compensate him for his time, would testify at once to the demand for this sort of knowledge, both in town and in the country, and to the general appreciation of his skill.

I have been led to exceed my intended limits, because I was desirous of answering in some measure a class of objectors of whom I regret that your correspondent should be the representative. No one can doubt that an inestimable discovery has been made. Though it may be regretted that it has not been made free to all, yet the inventors have an undoubted legal right to pursue with regard to it whatever course may seem to them best. They have made arrangements which place it at the command of any who are disposed to avail themselves of it,\* and I cannot but think that the community if not the government, will be forward in recognizing the magnitude of their claims.

I have only to add, that I am not ambitious of controversy, and that I shall make no further communication upon this part of the subject, unless the position I have here assumed shall seem to me to be in any way invalidated.

Your obedient servant,

*Boston, Dec. 4th, 1846.*

HENRY J. BIGELOW.

#### OUR MEDICAL SCHOOL AND HOSPITALS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE site, formerly consecrated to refuge and solace of contagions, loathsome disease, small-pox, was selected for the Medical College as appended

\* I had occasion, a few days since, to tie the femoral artery of a patient who was unable to pay for the operation. I found no difficulty in obtaining the gratuitous use of the method; nor do I conceive that others would, in similar circumstances. It may be added that the patient was wholly unconscious of the dissection.

H. J. B.

to, and co-operate with our unrivalled Hospitals! Before anything was done for their establishment, our Emeritus Professor of Medicine, Dr. Jas. Jackson, declared "we will have Hospitals, supplying every want, even of the tenderest, humblest invalid."—Such is high purpose, "setting in order things which are wanting!" A dozen well-doers have endowed these Hospitals with nearly a million of dollars!—"to the ready spindle and distaff flax comes!"—Before, if one was thrown down, victim of violence or of phrenzy, sick and stranger, what confusion, inconvenience, aggravation, cost, fatality! Now, "the stranger, from afar, cometh to them: they do all he asketh for!"

"Noctes atque dies patet janua."

The French call such by God's name, Hotel-Dieu!

"Ces asiles des malheurs des mortels  
Sont du Bon-Dieu les meilleurs autels."

In such was the nascent, inchoate ministration of an angel-disciple,

"Decus additus astris!"

his foot-prints, biography, writings, remembrances of him, so impress our junior portion of the medical profession as to make an epoch in this medical school! (The eulogy of Dr. Matthew Baillie says, "Few are aware of the importance of one man to the character of a profession.") Among our condition's uncertainties, his continuance here might not have effected more. He seemed like one of those "trees which bear fruit and blossoms at once."\*

Jackson's home thanks God for maintained "cheerfulness; for the beautiful image, ever before it, the face as of an angel! checking no pleasure, not even gaiety."

The respected idea of that rigorous observer, Dr. Ch. A. Louis, of the Hotel-Dieu, of Paris, who helps to train many zealous pupils of our medical schools, is with us, as we, not mournfully, but hopefully, thankfully meditate on his beloved disciple, Jackson, as he used to lean on Louis's bosom, aspiring to be, as he prophesied, "a law-giver of our art!" All choice spirits, however distant, are ours, theirs; united by firm intention, close adhesion; a thrill of sympathy is propagated along the *commune vinculum*; we feel each others' warm pressure, circulation of mutuality, *cognitionem inter nos!*

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\* Another, not of the medical profession, but a guardian-pioneer of knowledge and of man's weal, settled his fair account from among us: filial piety memorialized "a life spent in search of the true and the right." Our Warren Street Chapel Association republished these biographies, as text books of moral, intellectual, professional guidance, exemplars of what is "done in the green and dry."—Dr. James Jackson, Jr.—Dr. Nathaniel Bowditch, whose "end was peace, grace! too serene for sadness, too beautiful for fear! As he was being conveyed to his rest, snow-flakes lighted on the pall, emblems of bright purity!"

"Sa maladie ayant dépassé déjà le terme, où cessent les espérances et où s'arrêtent les ressources de l'art; au seuil d'une autre vie, il avait encore de l'énergie et de l'activité pour s'occuper des détails de la vie qu'il allait quitter."—*Speridion*.

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 THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.
 

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 BOSTON, DECEMBER 9, 1846.
 

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*State Medical Matters.*—A circular has been issued by a committee of the Berkshire Medical District, addressed to the profession of Massachusetts, in which are set forth, in plain language, the grievances of the practitioners on the west side of the mountain. Some immediate concessions must be made by the parent Society, whose power radiates from the metropolis, or these discontented gentlemen will manage according to their own liking. A new organization is demanded, to meet the case of the Berkshire section of the Commonwealth, and these practitioners very reasonably ask for the adoption of a plan similar to the one in operation in New York and Connecticut. But, having the staff in their own hands, it is obvious they will not beg for favors, and they therefore apprise all whom it may concern, that an application will be made to the Legislature, the next session, praying that the Massachusetts Medical Society may be re-organized, and in "default of such re-organization, that the profession in the County of Berkshire may be constituted a separate and distinct medical society." This breach, which has been growing wider and wider for twenty years, might have been healed by a very simple dressing long ago. The fact is, the opinion is entertained that all the essential executive officers are invariably held by persons in Boston, or near by—and, as some of the malcontents have often asserted, their portion of the members are only parts and parcels of the medical machinery to hold up one or two men before the community, as those whom the multitude of doctors delight to honor. They say, too, that the old trick of serving out sop by giving the interior of the State a *vice-president*, occasionally—a post that no one covets—will no longer work. All this has frequently been sounded in the ears of the Fellows on anniversary meetings, but it produced no amelioration, and now a desperation is manifested that will certainly re-make or break the old Society.

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*University of Buffalo.*—The first circular of the Medical Department of the newly-organized University, as a typographical specimen, is creditable to the printers of Buffalo. If the engraving on the cover is a true representation of the medical college, the exterior is chaste and imposing; and with regard to the interior, we are well enough acquainted with several gentlemen of the faculty elect, to know that good taste, convenience and elegance, and nothing else, would be tolerated where they are. Lectures will commence on the last Wednesday of February, and continue sixteen weeks. All the gentlemen are familiar with the labors of the several chairs. Clinics are established, a hospital is open, and the prospect is altogether brilliant.

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*Southern Retreat for Invalids.*—A notice on our advertising page by A. H. Wilder, M.D., reminds us of the propriety of calling the attention of

medical gentlemen to the advantages of his locality. They, as well as those patients who may consult them in regard to a variety of chronic difficulties which are bettered by a bland climate, will be interested in knowing that Dr. Wilder has made preparations for the accommodation of invalids from the North. We can speak decidedly in favor of the climate of Richmond, from having enjoyed it, when the chills, frost, snow and uproar of the elements in New England were discouraging to a person whose physical organization could but feebly resist such turbulence. Dr. Wilder is accustomed to the chronic diseases of the north, having been in the midst of us, and well known for his medical qualifications. Those who may place themselves under his care, will be sure of receiving that kindness and courtesy, which a sympathy for their misfortunes is calculated to excite. Having himself been obliged to take up a residence in Virginia on account of the delicacy of his health, and having been restored by the ameliorating influences of the climate, he is the better qualified to instruct others in regaining that which is inestimable to all—vigorous health.

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*Iowa Botanic Advocate.*—When the word *botany* appears on the face of any periodical making pretensions to medicine, in these degenerate days, it is to us an infallible indication of quackery. It is a matter of surprise, that the Thomsonians are not sick of their own accredited organs of mis-called medical intelligence, now so numerous that some of them, like the mushroom growth of hydropathic hospitals, are not wanted even by their most enthusiastic advocates. One Dr. Margrave has inflicted upon the inhabitants of Iowa city, the first number of one of these senseless Journals, in which, as usual, the principal object seems to be, to impress the reader with the utter worthlessness of all medical science;—and that is not all; the men who uphold the fabric of medical literature and science are so represented to the gaze of ignorant admirers, as to seem on a level with pickpockets and sharpers.

This predominant spirit, the burden of all these wide-mouthed trumpets, must necessarily operate, in the end, against the cause it is designed to benefit, because an everlasting repetition of such charges and inuendos against a profession distinguished for great achievements in humanity, to say nothing of their immense contributions to the stock of useful knowledge in every department of life, and in every age, cannot always blind even the most stupid,—light must in some way break in upon them. As civilization succeeds barbarism, in all new countries it is possible that medicine, in order to be valued according to its intrinsic worth, must follow after the false assertions, prejudice and abominations of systematized quackery. The *Iowa Botanic Advocate* may be ranked among the advocates of this latter cause, and is therefore a blind leader of the blind.

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*Diseases of the past Season at Newport, N. H.*—TO THE EDITOR.—Sir,—Among the variety of diseases which have claimed our attention the current year, in this vicinity, are scarlatina, smallpox and typhoid fever. The last has been quite prevalent during the autumn. The prominent symptoms were cough, nausea, diarrhœa, rapid pulse, &c.; in some instances, delirium, from commencement to convalescence. Mild cases

required but little treatment ; we gave but few cathartics, and the Dover's powder was generally sufficient to restrain the diarrhœa. Simple nervines were all that was required to compose the patient. Ten cases of varioloid occurred in January last in Goshen, an adjoining town ; all had been vaccinated several years previous, but probably with impure virus, as I re-vaccinated many who had been vaccinated at that time, and the vaccine disease was but little modified by the previous vaccination. Three cases of variola from exposure to varioloid occurred. Neither had been vaccinated previous to exposure. The first, a child 11 months old, had been under domestic treatment for several days when I first saw the little fellow, at which time a pretty copious crop of pustules were produced, confluent on face and other parts, and suffered from the attempts which had been made to drive out the rash (it was thought to be scarlatina by the mother and neighbors). The two others were vaccinated seven days after they had been exposed, and contracted variola. The vaccine disease ran its course with and modified the variola, both in its severity and duration. Pustules were more rapidly developed, and desiccation took place much earlier. The termination resembled more the varioloid cases than the commencement. In a great number of exposures to variolous contagion, not a single one of those vaccinated on the day or previous to exposure by us, had the varioloid. Among several hundred, no bad consequences resulted, either from the disease or vaccination.

Respectfully yours, THOMAS SANBORN.

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*Amputation of the entire Arm and Shoulder.*—Dr. D. Gilbert, of Gettysburg, Pa., is said to have successfully performed a very important surgical operation, in the removal, on account of a tumor, of the whole arm and shoulder, including one third of the collar bone and a large portion of the shoulder blade.

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### New York Correspondence.

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*Medical Schools in New York.*—The success and prosperity of the two Medical Colleges in New York would seem to indicate that rival institutions, in the same city, may be mutually advantageous to each other's interests. The venerable College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, once honored with such teachers as Bard, Hosack, Mitchell, Post, Mc Neren and Francis (of which bright galaxy, the last-named only survives), continues, under their learned successors, to maintain a dignified character and a respectable class, notwithstanding the competition of the other school. The opening address of the present session was an able and instructive discourse by Professor Joseph M. Smith, the amiable and excellent teacher of Theory and Practice, which was every way worthy of the occasion. The course has since progressed with a class increased in numbers over former years, and Professor Parker's valuable clinique is said to be weekly improving in the numerous and instructive surgical cases of disease, to which his pupils thus have access. This feature has been superadded to our medical colleges within a few years, and from its signal utility promises to become universal. The several professors of this

School enjoy a high reputation, and some of them have distinguished themselves by valuable contributions to our professional literature, especially Drs. Stevens, Beck and Torrey. Of the entire Faculty it may justly be said, that if they cannot command success, they do more, for they deserve it, possessing, as they do in an eminent degree the affectionate regard of the class, and the high respect of the profession at home and abroad.

The Medical Department of the University of the City of New York has fully sustained the numbers of its present class, as compared with last year, and the several introductory lectures of the present session were well attended, and are highly spoken of, particularly that of Professor Draper, which was a tasteful and finished performance. Dr. Mott's clinique is still popular and useful, affording, as it does, a variety of interesting cases, and giving occasion and opportunity for valuable practical observations, and instructive operations performed in view of the class. The several professors are daily lecturing on the different departments to the satisfaction of their pupils, and some of them are deservedly popular with the class, as manifested by the enthusiasm with which they are greeted, and the respectful attention with which they are heard. The high position which this school has gained within so brief a period, must be a source of gratification to its friends. The faculty is composed of able men, several of whom have long been eminent both as teachers and practitioners, and with such professors, this College will continue to thrive.

Between the two schools, though situate near each other, the utmost harmony, thus far, subsists, as becomes an honorably rivalry between competitors for the public favor, each content to stand upon its own merits. Such amicable relations should ever be cultivated as the dictate both of policy and duty.

It is matter of regret that with more than 500 students in the city, found in these two colleges, they should still be unable to avail themselves of the greatest hospital in the country, found at the neighboring almshouse, for clinical instruction. The medical appointments being made from political considerations solely, irrespective of either learning or experience, this extensive clinical school is lost to all the purposes of science and humanity, for which it might otherwise be rendered available. The efforts heretofore made by the friends of both the medical schools, to rescue this hospital from such hands, have thus far been ineffectual, and the mischiefs of its present management are perpetuated.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Communications have been received, since our last, from Dr. N. S. Davis, Binghamton, N. Y., Dr. Underhill, of Ohio, and Dr. Fisher, of Paris.

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MARRIED.—In Cohasset, Mass., Dr. George Cutler, of Charlestown, to Miss Ann Maria Smith, of Cohasset.—Dr. George Cogswell, of Bradford, to Miss Elizabeth Doane, of Yarmouth.—In Northboro', Dr. Geo. W. Burdett, of Clintonville, to Miss Elizabeth J. Valentine.

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DIED.—In Boston, Dr. Rodney C. Messer, of Haverhill. N. H., 23.

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*Report of Deaths in Boston*—for the week ending Dec. 5th, 37.—Males, 19—females, 18.—Stillborn, 8. Of consumption, 9—dropsy on the brain, 2—pleurisy, 2—croup, 2—accidental, 1—throat distemper, 1—typhus fever, 5—lung fever, 2—child-bed, 1—canker, 1—convulsions, 1—dropsy, 1—dropsy in the chest, 1—scald, 1—teething, 1—disease of the heart, 1—old age, 1—marasmus, 1—infantile, 2—brain fever, 1.

Under 5 years, 10—between 5 and 20 years, 7—between 20 and 40 years, 14—between 40 and 60 years, 3—over 60 years, 3.

*Patent Medicines in Vermont.*—Maine and Vermont have quite anticipated Massachusetts and other States in the march of civilization. No one will dare say that the laws against the sale of patent medicines, without having the composition known, is not in accordance with the institutions of civilized life—where the health of individuals should be in the keeping of the State. Perhaps the spirit of this wholesome legislation, which commenced in the East, may extend through the union. In the Northampton Democrat is the following:—"The Vermont Legislature have imitated the example set them by Maine, and passed a law against selling any medicine in that State composed of more than one simple, without a label attached to it giving the name of each ingredient, unless the ingredients are laid down in some medical book in ordinary use, or administered by a physician. Another section of the same act forbids any apothecary, physician, or other person, to either keep in his possession or sell any poison except 'in a box, bottle or phial of a triangular form,' with a label on the same containing the name of the article and the word poison, and to keep such poison separate from all other medicines."

*Urinometer.*—This is a French instrument, to ascertain the acidity of the urine, with a view of determining the state of health—but more especially in diabetes, and also in cases of an involuntary flow of that secretion. There is a graduated scale on one side of a glass tube. The urinometer is immersed in pure water, and the gage at which it rests, is marked W. The next division is H, where it remains in urine, when the person from whom it was taken is in perfect health. S, on the scale, means strong, but a less degree of health. When diabetes actually exists, the fact is indicated and its progress ascertained by the surface of the fluid making an increased measure over the notched tube. Mr. Burnett has brought out this delicate little guide.

*Isinglass Plaster.*—An elegant, transparent water-proof plaster is prepared for the London hospitals, by Mr. Macard, that meets the cordial approval of the surgeons of those charities, and which Mr. Burnett, in Tremont Row, Boston, has recently imported. It is spread on calico, thin cotton, and also on skin. All that is to be done, to make it instantly adhesive, is to wet one surface with a damp cloth or sponge.

*Child with a Tail.*—Dr. J. D. Plunkett, of Shelby Co., Tenn., says the Medical News, "was requested to visit a female infant, 6 months old, from the extremity of whose coccyx there issued something much resembling a tail, four inches long, gradually tapering, and the small end adherent to the middle of the thigh. Finding that it contained neither bone nor cartilage, he removed it by applying a ligature to each end of the loop."

*Medical Miscellany.*—Dr. Smith, an American missionary, at Erzeroum, was lately badly treated by the Turkish authorities, but the Divan at Constantinople obliged the Pacha to pay him £200 sterling as an indemnification.—Dr. Stanislaus Hernisz is about giving a course of lectures, in Boston, on Japan.—Smallpox is again creeping on toward New England. In some parts of Illinois it has prevailed so extensively as to compel the courts of law to be suspended for the present.